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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of: **JOSEL t al**

Serial Number: 08/776,190

Group Art Unit: 1818

Filed: January 24, 1997

Examiner: N. Musto

For: OLIGOMERIC CARRIER MOLECULES WITH DEFINED INCORPORATED
MARKER GROUPS AND HAPTEN

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §121

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

March 5, 1998

RECEIVED

MAR - 6 1998

**MATRIX CUSTOMER
SERVICE CENTER**

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated December 9, 1997 please amend the
above-identified patent application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-38, and add the following new claims.

*Sub
p1*

-- 39. A conjugate, comprising a polymeric carrier having a maximum of 100
monomeric units which contains 1-10 hapten molecules and 1-10 marker groups or solid
phase binding groups which are coupled to reactive side groups at predetermined positions
on the polymeric carrier, wherein the monomeric units are selected from at least one of
nucleotides, nucleotide analogues and peptide nucleic acids.